



EPA Begins Cleanup at National Lacquer and Paint

National Lacquer and Paint Co.
Chicago, Illinois

October 2003

EPA Needs Your Help

Now that the cleanup is under way at the National Lacquer and Paint Co. site, EPA needs your help to ensure the safety of area residents.

Most of the cleanup work is being done inside the buildings that housed the company. That means anyone who tries to enter the buildings may be in danger. There are hazardous materials in the building, and there may be other dangers, especially to children.

If you see children playing in the area, or if you see people trying to enter the property, please contact the Chicago Police Department. The police are patrolling the area more frequently while the cleanup is in progress. The number for the 7th District Police Station is:

(312) 747-8220

Also, EPA has a trailer set up on the site. You may stop by the trailer to report any trespassing.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began clearing hazardous materials from the National Lacquer and Paint Co. building at 75th & Green Street on October 13. The work should be completed by the end of this year.

Cleanup will include removing 10,000 containers ranging in size from one-ton totes down to laboratory bottles. Contractors will also remove debris from inside the six two-story brick buildings and outside in the courtyards and shipping areas.

The contractors will also cover broken windows, dismantle dangerous structures and test the ground for soil contamination. Most of the chemicals are stored on concrete floors, which probably stopped most of the leaks from seeping into the ground.

Some points about the cleanup:

- The cleanup does not pose any hazard to neighborhood residents.
- Most of the work is done behind a brick wall surrounding the factory, out of view of the public.
- Residents may occasionally see workers in required protective clothing.
- All work is being done during daylight hours.
- The workers are taking steps to minimize noise and dust.

This cleanup is being considered a time-critical removal action. Under federal law, EPA has the authority to step in and take emergency action when it's judged that uncontrolled hazardous waste could pose a threat to the public.

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns about the cleanup at the National Lacquer and Paint Co. site, please contact one of the EPA team members listed below.

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